

who assemble to be taught. Every man in the Church of God on the earth should be able to speak as he is moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Then his words are the word of the Lord, the mind of the Lord, the will of the Lord, and they are scripture.

Of all people that have ever lived, the Latter-day Saints have the greatest reason to be thankful to the Lord. We possess the fulness of the Gospel and are members of the Church of Jesus Christ. We occupy a place in that land which was given to Joseph by his father—the land of America. We have received the organization of the great Kingdom of our God—that kingdom which was spoken of by Adam, by Daniel, and by all the ancient prophets whose eyes have been upon this age of the world. We are building up Zion in the very place and on the very continent which the Lord designed. Therefore, why should we not be happy? Why should we not be contented? Why should we not be united together to carry out the purposes of the Lord? We should be. There is no man who has received this Gospel and enjoys the Holy Ghost but can rejoice and be thankful, and be willing to pass through whatever trials or afflictions he may be called upon to endure for the Gospel's sake. I feel to rejoice myself at this time that we have the privilege of meeting together in peace. When I contemplate our position as Latter-day Saints, and the responsibilities that we are under, I feel that our hearts and our souls should be drawn out in thanksgiving to God. We should labor for the building up of the Kingdom of God and for the establishment of His work; for we have been called of God and appointed to take this kingdom in the latter days and bear it off. We have promises given unto us that no other dispensation or generation of men ever had. It has been promised us that we shall possess the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom, and it will never be overthrown, but will remain until Jesus Christ, the great lawgiver to Israel, comes to reign over His people. Therefore, we need not think that we have nothing to do. We have a great work before us, and it will require all our exertions and all our talents and ability to perform it. We must seek for the Spirit of God to assist us; for without this Spirit we can accomplish but very little.

There is a subject pressing upon my mind at the present time which I want to speak upon. I refer to the treatment of animals. My soul has been pained a great deal by the treatment which man extends to the beasts of the field. Before the railroad was built across this continent I crossed the plains several times, and the abuse of animals which I then witnessed gave me great pain. The Lord has given unto us horses and cattle and other animals for our benefit. Not one of these animals can talk to us, and I therefore look upon their ill-treatment as a great evil and a sin. This is a matter which the world consider

of small consequence for the President of a church to talk about. I have not done it heretofore, but I am going to do it now.

We all admire a fine horse. It is one of the noblest of animals. It is also one of the most useful of animals. The treatment that we extend to horses, in many instances, is unjust and unrighteous. I have seen men take a young horse that had never had a harness on. They have harnessed it, and they have taken a black-snake whip, and before it was ever put to a wagon or anything of the kind they have whipped it almost to death. I have seen young men in these valleys do that. Does that horse know why he is thus abused? The man who does this commits a sin. When you harness a young horse for the first time, he knows nothing about it and does not know what to do. That horse should be treated kindly, no matter whether he kicks, or jumps, or bites. He doesn't understand why that harness is put on him, and the man who has any kindness about him will treat that animal kindly. If you do this, the horse will very soon learn what you want of him, and when he learns that, he will do it. Treat your animals kindly and they will treat you kindly; they will do all you ask of them.

Here is a young heifer. She has a calf. A young man goes to milk her. She has never been milked before. She kicks and won't stand still. What does that young man do? He gets a club or something of the kind and goes to thrashing her. Now, whoever does that ought to be thrashed himself. Treat that animal kindly. In a little while she will understand what is wanted of her and will then act all right.

I want to see a change, especially with the Latter-day Saints, in their treatment of the beasts of the field. They have been given to us for our use. They are a great blessing to us, and we should treat them gently and with consideration. It is wrong to exercise tyranny over anything. When I was a boy and went to school, the schoolmaster used to come with a bundle of sticks about eight feet long, and one of the first things we expected was to get a whipping. For anything that was not pleasing to him we would get a terrible thrashing. What whipping I got then did not do me any good. I have always felt that ill-treatment either of children or animals is all wrong. Kindness, gentleness and mercy are better every way. I would like this principle instilled into the minds of our young men, that they may carry it out in all their acts in life. Tyranny is not good, whether it be exercised by kings, by presidents, or by the servants of God. Kind words are far better than harsh words. If, when we have difficulties one with another, we would be kind and affable to each other, we would save ourselves a great deal of trouble.

I wonder if there is a man here who ever gained anything by scolding or heating his wife or his children. I never saw any good result from it. You go into a family where

a man treats his wife and children kindly, and you will find that they will treat him in the same way. Complaints reach me of the treatment of men to their wives. They do not provide for them. They do not treat them kindly. All this pains me. These things should not be. Here is a man who has a wife or wives. They have been given unto him of the Lord. They have placed themselves under his direction. This man is held responsible by his Creator for the course which he pursues toward these women. He should be kind to them; and in their affliction he should not tyrannize over them, or scold them, or pain their hearts. We should be kind to one another, do good to one another, and labor to promote the welfare, the interest and the happiness of each other, especially those of our own households. The man stands at the head of the family. He is the patriarch of his household. I have attended meetings in this Church where one man has had almost a congregation of sons and daughters. There is no more beautiful sight on earth than to see a man stand at the head of his family and teach them righteous principles and give them good counsel. These children honor their father, and they take consolation and joy in having a father who is a righteous man.

Our sisters, also, have their duties to perform to their husbands. They should consider his position and his circumstances. Many of our brethren have gone to prison, for the Gospel's sake. This has created a degree of trial, affliction and sorrow in their families. As a general thing, as Brother George Q. Cannon has said, it has a tendency to draw their wives and their children closer to them. Every wife should be kind to her husband. She should comfort him and do what good she can for him, under all circumstances in life. When all the family are united together, they enjoy a heavenly spirit here on the earth. This is how it should be; for when a man in this Church takes unto himself a wife he expects to remain with her through all time and eternity. In the morning of the first resurrection he expects to have that wife and his children with him in a family organization, to remain in that condition forever and forever. What a glorious thought that is! I have felt it, when I get through this world, where I have passed through many tribulations and afflictions with my wives and children, I can only have them with me in the next world, in their immortal bodies, to stand with me in the presence of God and of the Savior, and of the old patriarchs and prophets. It will pay me for all my labors if I should live to be as old as Methuselah. And I have no doubt, that all of you feel the same.

There is another thing I wish to refer to here. I have heard that in Zion there are some men who entertain the idea that they inherit the body and spirit of Moses, or Abraham, or David, or Noah, or somebody other than themselves. I hope none of you here indulge in anything of this kind, because it is a